

REMARKS

Reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims, in view of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated June 1, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 13-16 and 25-27, under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2, as allegedly being indefinite; and rejected claims 12-16, under 37 C.F.R §1.75, as allegedly being substantial duplicates of claims 28-32.

The Examiner also indicated that claims 1-11, 17-24, 26, and 28-32 are allowed.

By this Amendment, claim 25 has been amended to provide a clearer presentation of the claimed subject matter and claims 12-16 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced.

Applicant further submits that, by virtue of the changes to claim 25 and the cancellation of claims 12-16, the rejections based on indefiniteness and duplication have been overcome or otherwise rendered moot. Accordingly, the immediate withdrawal of the §112, ¶2 rejection of claim 25 and the §1.75 rejections of claims 12-16 is respectfully requested.

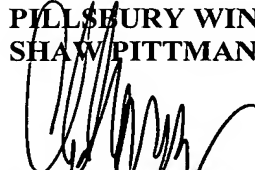
All matters having been addressed and in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of all pending claims.

Applicants' Counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter. If any point remains in issue in which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the Undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number **03-3975**. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

**PILLSBURY WINTHROP
SHAW PITTMAN LLP**



CHRISTINE H. MCCARTHY
Reg. No. **41844**
Tel. No. 703.770.7743
Fax No. 70.770.7901

Date: September 29, 2006
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 770-7900